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### **Massachusetts Black Sea Bass and Scup Commercial Fisheries to Close on November 3.**

The National Marine Fisheries Service has projected that the black sea bass commercial quota for the fourth quarter of 2000 has been taken. NMFS also has determined that the scup commercial quota for the 2000 winter II period (November and December) has been taken. Therefore, DMF has enacted a commercial closure for both species effective Friday, November 3 through the end of the year. After Thursday November 2, commercial fishermen are prohibited from fishing for or possessing black sea bass and scup. Dealers are prohibited from purchasing black sea bass or scup from fishermen as well. Fishing will re-open on January 1 for both species.

DMF has scheduled public hearings on November 8-10 to enact new trip limits for the winter fishery that are consistent with the ASMFC interstate plan for scup and sea bass. Fishermen are reminded that the recreational fishery bag limit for sea bass is 20 fish. Scup has a recreational limit of 50 fish per angler with a maximum of 200 fish per private vessel with 4 or more fishermen on board. Sale is prohibited.

For more information, contact DMF's Boston office at 617-626-1520.